23. *Public Works.*—The allotment for ordinary Public Works expenditure in the next year including establishment charges and Tools and Plant is Rs 36·46 lakhs as against the current year's budget grant of Rs 32·48 lakhs. When the estimated expenditure on Capital works and the expenditure met out of the Irrigation and Road Development Funds and the Reproductive Works executed by the Electrical Department are also taken into account, the budget grant for the next year for works of public utility would amount to Rs 95·70 lakhs. Full details of the works in progress and new works are given in the Appendix to the budget estimates. The allotment for new works includes Rs 2 lakhs for the construction of the Council Chamber and that under works in progress includes rupees one lakh for works in connection with the Town-Planning Scheme and Rs 50,000 more for extensions and investigations of other Town-Planning Schemes.

CAPITAL SCHEMES.

24. *Water Supply.* –The question of supplying good drinking water to all the important Municipal towns in the State, where there is scarcity of good water, has been engaging the anxious attention of Government for some time past. A water-supply scheme for the Trivandrum town was taken up first. The first stage of the scheme has practically been worked out, except the High Level Service Reservoir which is nearing completion. The Town Water Supply has been commenced and it was found to be of immense relief to the people during the unusual drought of this year. The preliminary works for starting the second stage of the Town distribution system are in hand and the working out of this stage and the laying out of the water works premises are proposed to be taken up next year.

25. The Municipalities of Nagercoil, Shencotta and Alleppey have also been urging the need for supplying good water. In view of the hardships to which the people in these three Municipal towns are put for want of good water, it is proposed to extend the supply of protected water to these Municipal towns also. But having regard to considerations of economy and the resources of the Municipalities, the Water-Supply Schemes for the three mofussil towns in question cannot obviously be on as liberal a scale as for the Capital town. The Scheme will be restricted to street supplies, that is to say, supply of water through public street taps alone, with no house connections at present. If the supply be restricted as above, an average per capita allowance of 7 to 15 gallons per diem is all that would be required. On this basis, the three schemes are expected to cost roughly Rs 25 lakhs in all—Rs 12 lakhs for Nagercoil, (Rs $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for the low level included)

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